PHOTOPOLYMERIZABLE COMPOSITIONS AND FLEXOGRAPHIC PLATES PREPARED FROM CONTROLLED DISTRIBUTION BLOCK COPOLYMERS

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

[0001] The present application claims priority from copending, commonly assigned U.S. patent applications Serial Number 60/355,210, filed February 7, 2002, entitled Novel Block Copolymers and Method for Making Same (TH-1768 prov.), and application (TH-1768 conv.), Serial Number 10/359,981 filed February 6, 2003, pending.

O.A. Dec. 13, 05

Background of the Invention

Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to photopolymerizable compositions, to flexographic printing plates derived from said compositions and to flexographic printing relief forms prepared from said plates. More in particular, the present invention relates to compositions showing an improved combination of processing stability, transparency and ozone resistance.

Description of the related art

[0003] Photopolymerizable printing plates are known for use in making flexographic printing forms. The printing surface is produced by exposing a photopolymerizable layer image-wise to actinic radiation and subsequently removing the unexposed, non-photopolymerized areas of the printing plate. Examples are found in the following patents: DE C-2215090, US 4,266,005, US 4,320,188, US 4,126,466, US 4,430,417, US 4,460,675 and US 5,213,948.

[0004] Such photopolymerizable printing plates usually comprise a support, an optional adhesive layer or other underlayer, one or more photopolymerizable layers, an optional elastomeric intermediate layer and a cover layer. A preferred method for making such multilayer photopolymerizable printing plates is by a process in which a previously extruded